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**United States Patent [19]****Dziabo et al.****[11] Patent Number: 5,424,078****[45] Date of Patent: Jun. 13, 1995**

[54] **AQUEOUS OPHTHALMIC FORMULATIONS AND METHODS FOR PRESERVING SAME**

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..... **514/912**

[58] Field of Search ..... **424/661; 514/557, 912**

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[57]

**ABSTRACT**

Stabilized chlorine dioxide is a preservative for ophthalmic formulations. The stabilized chlorine dioxide, when employed as a preservative ophthalmic formulations is preferably present in an amount of from about 0.0002 or about 0.002 to about 0.02 weight/volume percent. The aqueous ophthalmic formulations, in addition to the stabilized chlorine dioxide and the water which functions as a vehicle for the formulations, contains an ophthalmically acceptable tonicity component effective to maintain the osmolality of the formulation at least about 200 mOsmol/kg, and a buffer to maintain the pH of the ophthalmic formulation within an acceptable physiological range. A method for preserving aqueous ophthalmic formulations utilizing stabilized chlorine dioxide is also set forth.

**18 Claims, No Drawings**